

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested. Claims 1-26 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 3, 4, 13, 21, and 24 being the independent claims.

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 3-4, 13, 21, and 24. Unless otherwise indicated, the claim amendments are for purposes of clarification. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Weinstock et al. (U.S. Patent 6,223,143). Applicants traverse this rejection because the cited reference fails to disclose, teach, or suggest all of the features of the claimed invention.

For example, the cited reference fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a system or method wherein **common cause basic events are automatically inserted into multiple fault tree structures**, as recited in claims 1, 3-4, 13, 21, and 24.

If a future Office Action rejects claims 1, 3-4, 13, 21, and 24, Applicants respectfully request that the Official Action specifically point out in the cited reference a system or method wherein **common cause basic events are automatically inserted into multiple fault tree structures**, as recited in the claims.

It is respectfully pointed out that anticipation can only be established by a single prior art reference that discloses each and every element of the claimed invention. RCA Corp. v. Applied Digital Data Systems, Inc., 730 F.2d 1440 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Therefore, since the cited reference fails to recite each and every element of Applicants' invention as required in claims 1, 3-4, 13, 21, and 24, claims 1, 3-4, 13, 21, and 24 are not anticipated by the cited reference and are therefore allowable.

Claims 2, 5-12, 14-20, and 22-23 respectively depend from claims 1, 4, 13, 21, and 24 and, therefore, are also allowable at least for the reasons claims 1, 4, 13, 21, and 24 are allowable, and for the specific features recited therein.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 5, 2004

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